

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Monday, June 1, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mayor Pro-tem George welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Opening: Councilmember Bethune offered the opening prayer and Mayor Pro-tem George invited everyone to join in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Council Members: Mayor Pro-tem George presided. Council Members: Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Marcia Daniel, and Kim Tice. *Absent:* Tennyson Holder, Mayor.

Staff: Ron Feldner, Interim City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Ron Alexander, Building Safety Director; Blake Hodge, Fire Chief; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; David Lyons, Chief of Police; Benny Googe, Public Works Director and Cliff Ducey, Parks & Recreation Director.

Mayor Pro-tem George said City Council held a pre-agenda session prior to tonight's meeting. He said no decisions were made or votes taken during the pre-agenda session.

Informal Public Comment: Mayor Pro-tem George opened the floor to receive public comment from the audience.

Ms. Sharon Bethune, Woodlawn Avenue, said the Housing Team had their first annual flea market at the Farmers Market on Saturday. She said we had a good turnout and I would like to thank the GCPD for being there.

Mr. Charles Russell, Chatham Villa Drive, said I would like to thank Councilmember Bethune and his wife for the Housing Team's efforts in the community and for the work they did a while back on my house. He said I would also like to thank the GCPD and GCFD for helping out in my neighborhood during the last bad storm. He said the storm knocked out the power in my area. He said keep up the good work you all are doing.

There being no further questions or comments from the audience, Mayor Pro-tem George closed the informal comment portion of the meeting.

City Council Minutes: Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Bethune, City Council voted unanimously to approve the city council minutes dated 5/18/15 and workshop synopsis dated 5/26/15.

Staff Reports:

Director of Planning, Zoning & Building presented the two site plan review cases scheduled to go before the Planning Commission at their June 9th meeting.

Director of Human Resources presented the Human Resources Department's monthly status report.

Director of Information Technology presented the Information Technology Department's monthly status report. He said the 50th Anniversary book is posted on the front page of the website.

Councilmember Bethune said the history of Garden City is very interesting reading and encouraged residents to read the information contained in the 50th Anniversary book posted on the City's website.

Parks & Recreation Director presented the Parks & Recreation Department's monthly status report. He said the seniors have a trip planned to Charleston in July and a trip to New England in the fall. He said the seniors would like to thank the IT Director, GCPD, and GCFD for conducting informational programs at the center. He said also the seniors would like to thank Councilmember Bethune and Sharon for the Mother's Day arrangements. He said Summer Camp started last Tuesday with approximately 45 kids enrolled in the program. He said the Cooper Center Summer Program started today with approximately 45 kids participating in the program.

Parks & Recreation Director presented to City Council a first place trophy for the City's float in the Stand Up For America Day Parade.

Councilmember Campbell thanked the Parks & Recreation staff for their work on preparing the field for the kid's annual picnic event.

Public Works Director presented the Public Works Department's monthly status report.

Councilmember Bethune asked the Public Works Director when the Alamo would be fixed. Public Works Director said we should be getting it back this week.

Councilmember Tice said citizens are contacting me about the debris some of the residents on Varnedoe have out in front of their homes. She said is this from the storm and you just have not had a chance to pick it up.

Public Works Director said we have picked up all the storm debris. He said these residents put out the debris after the crews finished picking up the storm debris.

Councilmember Bethune said this was put out after the public works crews finished collecting the storm debris.

Mayor Pro-tem George said I think we need to put something on the website to remind folks of our dry trash policy. He said we should get in contact with these residents and let them know how to bundle their yard debris so Waste Management will pick it up.

Mayor Pro-tem George requested the public works department look at the turn lane on Highway 21 at Smith Avenue, because there is sand and gravel in the road that might cause tires to spin. He said see if there is something we can do to clean it up.

Councilmember Cody thanked the public works staff for the cleanup work done on Davis Avenue.

Councilmember Campbell thanked the public works staff for their work on the preparing the field for the picnic. He said also the grass is growing and looking good on Byck Avenue.

City Manager Updates: City Manager said DOT is planning to pave a section of Highway 21 from Smith to Highway 307. He said I have not heard anything about DOT planning to pave Highway 80. He said I will have to check with DOT to see what their plans are for Highway 80. He said we are finalizing the schedule for some of our department heads to conduct monthly programs at the Senior Center and Cooper Center. He said next week the Planning, Zoning & Building Director is scheduled to talk to the seniors about Code Enforcement and the IT Director will be conducting computer training at the Cooper Center. He said this part of our continuing efforts to have staff engage with the residents.

Mayor Pro-tem George asked the City Manager to update everyone on the Comprehensive Plan Update.

City Manager said the kickoff meeting is scheduled for June 4th. He said we put together a list of 25 people to serve on the stakeholder committee. He said we have 20 of the 25 people confirmed to attend the kickoff meeting.

Items for Consideration:

First Reading, Ordinance – Zoning Map Amendment (0 Travis Field Road): Clerk of Council read the first reading of an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance and map of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to rezone certain properties owned by Chatham County, Georgia, from their present zoning classification of “R-A” to an “I-2” zoning classification; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Councilmember Bethune said there are six zoning criteria that are used by the mayor and council to evaluate a proposed zoning map amendment. He said this zoning request meets all the criteria.

Planning, Zoning & Building Director explained the process the developer goes through to meet the buffer and/or screening requirements.

City Manager said there are a lot of stormwater requirements that will have to be addressed on how they will discharge the stormwater runoff.

Councilmember Bethune said the citizens will have a chance to have input in the process when the site plan goes before the Planning Commission for review.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Pro-tem George called for a motion.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council unanimously voted to approve the ordinance on the first reading.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to suspend the rules of council to hold the second reading of the ordinance.

Second Reading, Ordinance – Zoning Map Amendment (0 Travis Field Road): Clerk of Council read the second reading of an ordinance to amend the zoning ordinance and map of Garden City, Georgia, as amended, to rezone certain properties owned by Chatham County, Georgia, from their present zoning classification of “R-A” to an “I-2” zoning classification; to repeal all ordinances in conflict herewith; to provide an effective date; and for other purposes.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Tice, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the ordinance on the second reading.

Resolution – GCFD Tanker Procurement - GMA Master Lease Financing Terms: Clerk of Council read a resolution by the City Council of Garden city, Georgia that the financing terms set forth in the attached Exhibit “A” be incorporated into the Lease Supplement to the Master Lease between the City and GMA for the lease of the Fouts 3000 Gallon Super Tanker being acquired from Fouts Brothers.

Fire Chief said the price of the tanker is \$211,000 plus \$30,000 for equipment to outfit the tanker. He said the first payment will be due December 8, 2015. He said the tanker is financed through GMA at an interest rate of 1.68% over the next five years. He said the anticipated delivery of the tanker is in November 2015.

Councilmember Bethune said the tanker is being paid for with SPLOST money.

City Manager said the term of the GMA loan is financed over the five year SPLOST period. He said the annual payment will be built into the annual budget.

Upon motion by Councilmember Campbell, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Resolution – GCPD Vehicles Procurement - GMA Master Lease Financing Terms: Clerk of Council read a resolution to authorize the City Manager to execute and deliver a Lease Supplement pursuant to the Master Lease between the City and GMA to put into effect one or more leases with the payment terms set forth in the attached Exhibit “A” for the procurement of eight (8) police vehicles for the total purchase price of \$223,108.00, plus the cost of equipping the vehicles (not to exceed \$134,455.03).

Councilmember Bethune said I reviewed the budget and 65% of our budget goes toward salary and benefits which leaves only 35%. He said I have had some questions that have been posed to me by our citizens about the vehicles the police department is looking at purchasing. He asked the Chief of Police when you order vehicles do you consult with the public works department on the type of vehicles since the shop is the one working on the vehicles?

Chief of Police said we did not. He said we took advantage of an extensive report done by Metro on police vehicles. He said council approved the purchase of the eight vehicles, but unfortunately, there were very few vehicles left on the market. He said we determined that we could get (4) Caprices for patrol; (2) Tahoes for the K-9 units; (1) Explorer for CID; and (1) F-150 pickup truck for the Training Officer. He said there are only two types of vehicles for use for K-9 units - the Explorer and Tahoe. He said we decided to go with the Tahoe for the K-9 units, because we talked with other departments that have or have had Explorers and they did not recommend them.

Councilmember Bethune said I know you are getting 2015 models, but the manufacturers are now making the 2016 models. He said wouldn't it be better to wait until the 2016 models are available.

Chief of Police said there would be a significant increase in the cost if we waited to purchase the 2016 models.

Councilmember Bethune said if you went with the Charger couldn't you use the equipment that we have now. He said it less expensive to change over the equipment than purchase new equipment.

Chief of Police said all the cars that we are replacing are Crown Vics. He said we are not replacing any of the Chargers. He said the equipment on the Crown Vics will not fit any other vehicle.

Councilmember Bethune said your justification for purchasing the F-150 truck is to carry targets, etc. for use at the range. He said you have a pickup truck sitting back there now. He said you can't use that truck to haul targets to the range.

Chief of Police said it is more than just hauling targets to the range. He said I have to buy the Training Officer a vehicle to replace the old vehicle he is currently using. He said the Training Officer does a lot more than haul targets. He said he is also our ammunition officer. He said the vehicle will be a marked police vehicle.

Mayor Pro-tem George called for a motion.

Councilmember Bethune said I would like to make a motion, seconded by Councilmember Tice to table this item for further study.

Mayor Pro-tem George said Councilmember Bethune brought up some good points, however, we have been talking about purchasing these cars since December. He asked the Chief of Police, what is your replacement plan going forward?

Chief of Police said the purchase of these eight vehicles gets us sound right now. He said several years ago we got approved to be on a plan to replace five vehicles per year, but we got away from it when money got tight.

Mayor Pro-tem George said you are planning to purchase Caprices for patrol cars. Chief of Police said it all came down to only a few cars that can work for law enforcement. He said the Caprices, Chargers and Inceptors. He said we consulted with other police departments on vehicles. He said I don't want to waste money on vehicles that aren't going to work for us. He said the Chargers have been a big disappointment and everyone that has or had the Inceptors said they are a big disappointment. He said we had to literally find vehicles, because of being so late in the year. He said the vehicles before you are what we could find available that would work for us.

Mayor Pro-tem George said could you clarify more on the pickup truck. Chief of Police said a lot of thought by staff went into the pickup truck. He said I still have to provide the Training Officer with a vehicle.

Councilmember Daniel said the pickup truck is the least expensive of the vehicles listed.

Mayor Pro-tem George said I have a motion and a second to table the purchase of the GCPD vehicles for further study. Mayor Pro-tem George called for the vote.

Councilmember Bethune and Councilmember Tice voted in favor of tabling the purchase of the GCPD vehicles for further study with Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Cody, Councilmember Daniel and Mayor Pro-tem George opposed.

Mayor Pro-tem George said the motion fails by a vote of four opposed and two in favor.

Councilmember Campbell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Daniel to adopt the resolution authorizing the procurement of the (8) vehicles for the GCPD. Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Cody, Councilmember Daniel and Mayor Pro-tem George voted in favor of adopting the resolution with Councilmember Bethune and Councilmember Tice opposed.

Mayor Pro-tem George said the motion passes by a vote of four in favor and two opposed.

Adjournment: There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Pro-tem George called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council unanimously adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Minutes Transcribed by Clerk of Council

Accepted & Approved by City Council: 6/15/15